

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	Austin
Serial No.:	Not yet assigned
Filed:	Concurrently herewith
For:	An Apparatus for Contracting or Crimping Stents
Examiner:	Not yet assigned
Group Art Unit:	Not yet assigned

Box Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Docket No.: S63.2-10142

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Before beginning examination and calculating the fees in this application, please amend the above-identified application as indicated below:

In the Specification:

On page 1 of the application, please insert a new heading after the Title, --Cross-Reference to Related Applications-- and insert as text on the next line thereafter as follows:

--This application is a Continuation application from Application No. 09/401,218 filed September 22, 1999, the contents of which is incorporated herein by reference.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 16 of the specification with the following text:

-- Actuation device 138 includes a rotatable actuation plate 142 which is co-axial with reference circle 114. Rotatable actuation plate includes cam slots 146 which are not concentric with the axis of rotation, arcing inward. Each connecting link 130 is engaged to actuation plate 146 via a cam follower bearing 150 disposed in slot 146 and attached to both angled end 134 of connecting link 130 and to a linear slide 154. Linear slide 154 is mounted on a non-rotating plate similar to that shown in Figure 8. Linear slide 154 is constructed and arranged to slide along a radial line 158 on which radial point 122 of blade 106 lies. --

In the Claims:

Please add new claims 27-41 as follows:

- 27.(New) A method of reducing a stent in cross-section comprising the steps of
- a) providing a plurality of wedge-shaped dies, the dies disposed about a circle and forming an aperture;
 - b) placing a stent within the aperture;
 - c) moving the dies so as to reduce the size of the aperture and apply an inward force to the stent.
- 28.(New) The method of claim 27 wherein the stent is disposed about a medical balloon, the medical balloon disposed about a catheter.
- 29.(New) The method of claim 27 further comprising the step of changing the temperature of the dies.
- 30.(New) The method of claim 29 wherein the stent is made of nitinol.
- 31.(New) The method of claim 27 wherein at least 8 wedge-shaped dies are provided.
- 32.(New) The method of claim 27 wherein at least 16 wedge-shaped dies are provided.
- 33.(New) The method of claim 27 wherein the stent is deformed.
- 34.(New) The method of claim 27 wherein the dies are moved cooperatively inward during the moving step.
- 35.(New) A method of reducing a stent in cross-section comprising the steps of
- a) disposing a stent in an aperture of a device for reducing a stent in cross-section, the aperture defined by at least three dies disposed about the aperture;
 - b) reducing the size of the aperture by moving the dies inward, the dies applying a force to the stent to reduce the stent in size.
- 36.(New) The method of claim 35 wherein the stent is disposed about a medical balloon, the medical balloon disposed about a catheter.
- 37.(New) The method of claim 35 further comprising the step of cooling the dies.
- 38.(New) The method of claim 37 wherein the stent is made of nitinol.
- 39.(New) The method of claim 35 wherein at least 8 wedge-shaped dies are provided.

40.(New) The method of claim 35 wherein at least 16 wedge-shaped dies are provided.

41.(New) The method of claim 35 wherein the cross-section of the stent is reduced.

Please cancel claims 1-26 without prejudice or disclaimer.

In the Drawings:

Please enter proposed amended Fig. 1.

REMARKS

The specification has been amended on page 1 to recite that this application is a Continuation application from Application No. 09/401,218 filed September 22, 1999, the contents of which is incorporated herein by reference. The paragraph beginning on page 8, line 16 of the specification has been amended to correct a clerical error in the spelling of the word 'with'.

Claims 1-26 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Some of the claims have already been prosecuted in the parent application. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the subject matter of claims 1-26 in an application claiming priority from this application or from the parent application. New claims 27-41 have been added.

Finally, figure 1 has been amended by labeling it as prior art.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: September 28, 2001

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In the Claims

Claims 1-26 have been canceled and new claims 27-41 have been added.

Prior Art

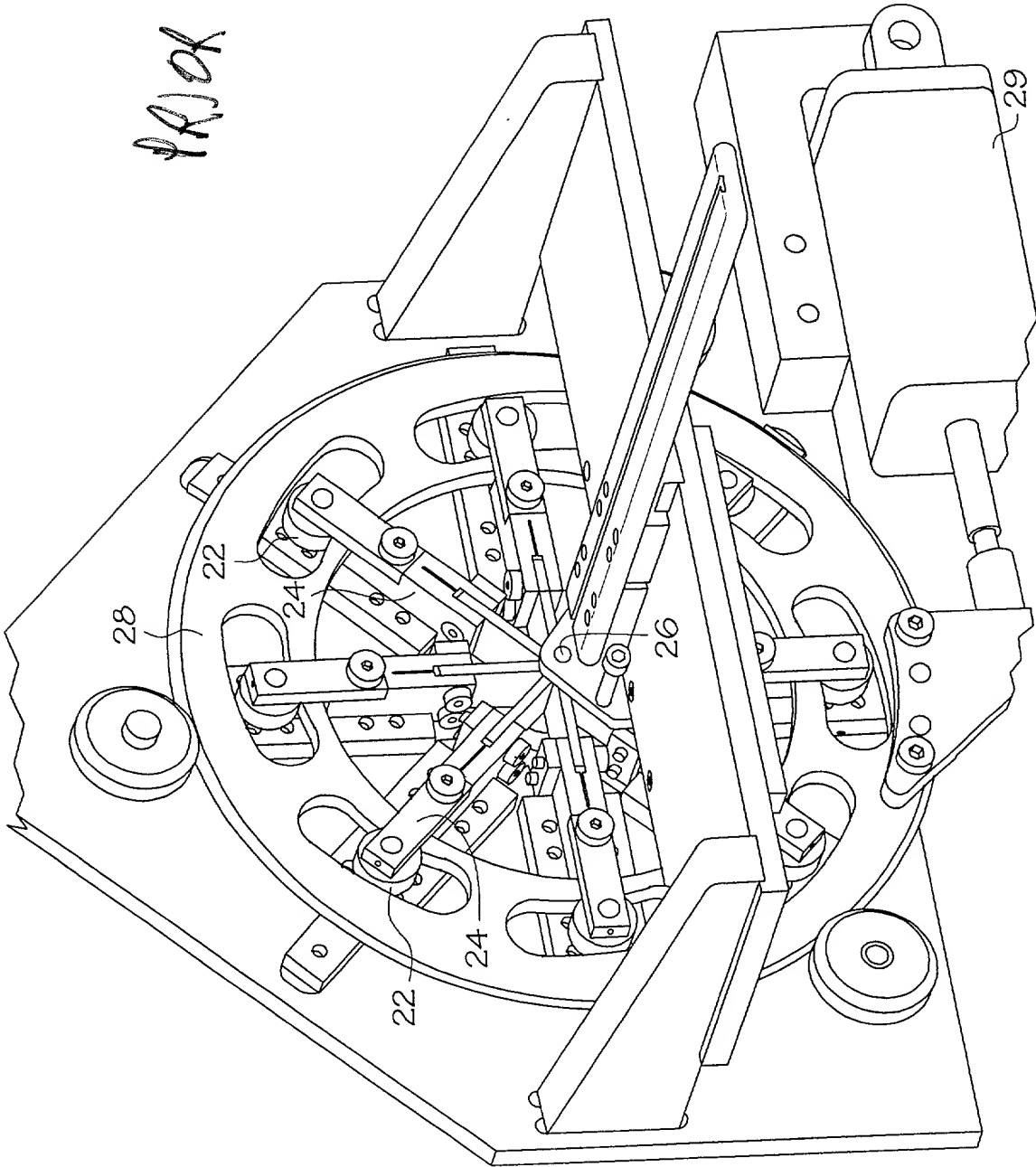


FIG. 1